

**REMARKS**

In the specification, the paragraphs beginning at page 8, line 6 and at page 12, line 3 have been amended to incorporate minor editorial clarifications.

Claims 1-10 were pending in this application. Claims 4 and 10 are cancelled. Claims 1, 5, and 6 are amended. New claims 11-18 are added. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-18 remain in this application.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 8 and 9 are allowed.

The Examiner has also acknowledged that claims 4-6 are directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, and claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 5 and 6 depend from amended claim 1.

New claims 11-18 have been added by this Amendment. Claim 11 is independent and claims 12-18 depend therefrom. No new matter was added. Support for new claims 11-18 can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed.

New independent claim 11 is directed to a mid-mount mower where a front cross frame 37 that suspends front wheels is maintained in a substantially parallel posture relative to the ground during an extension/contraction of a jack body. In the Samejima patent, in contrast, during the extension/contraction of a jack body, a front cross frame 14 that suspends front wheels becomes angled relative to the ground. Furthermore, in new claim 11, one end of the jack body contacts the ground during the extension/contraction of the jack body. The Samejima patent does not include this feature.

These additional claimed features are not addressed in the prior art. Therefore, claims 11-18 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Allowance of new claims 11-18 is respectfully requested.

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35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 7, and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for anticipation by Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-342040 to Samejima et al. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 4. Claims 2, 3, and 7 depend from amended independent claim 1. Claim 10 has been cancelled. In view of the above amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot and request withdrawal of these rejections.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-18 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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